

***Iowa Outdoors***  
**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**www.iowadnr.gov**

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**2009 LICENSES NEEDED TO HUNT, FISH**

DES MOINES – Hunters and anglers enjoying Iowa's winter out-of-doors are reminded to make sure they have a current license. The 2008 hunting and fishing licenses expired on Jan. 10.

"We have a number of seasons still open and are encouraging our hunters and anglers who are participating in the rabbit season, the final deer season, or spending the winter ice fishing to make sure the license is current," said Mick Klemesrud, with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The squirrel, quail, partridge and ruffed grouse seasons end on Jan. 31. Rabbit season ends on Feb. 28. The January antlerless deer season ends on Jan. 25 in counties where antlerless license quota was not filled. The light goose conservation order ends April 15. Regular spring turkey seasons begin April 13.

Hunting and fishing license fees remain at \$17.50, unchanged from previous years.

"I'm sure we all have a story about the time we were heading out to the lake or tree stand and had to make a detour to get a new license," Klemesrud said. "We just want to offer a friendly reminder to get the current license purchased."

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## **AMERICORPS MEMEBERS CONTINUE THE LEGACY OF SERVICE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

DES MOINES—Keepers of the Land AmeriCorps members, serving with the Department of Natural Resources, braved the winter weather today to make a difference in the lives of Des Moines area community members through volunteer efforts at Creative Visions.

Members embraced the legacy of service and completed enhancement projects at Creative Visions on 13th Street in Des Moines. Creative Visions is a human development center dedicated to creating productive citizens, viable neighborhoods and a safe community environment by engaging youth in a customized, holistic program of self-development, so they can achieve a self-sufficient lifestyle and sustainable employment through realistic hopes and goals.

“Members enjoy the opportunity to make a difference together and to be engaged in a community project outside their daily service in natural resource conservation,” said AmeriCorps Program Director Tricia Boggs. “In the spirit of Dr. King and AmeriCorps, members experience a variety of ways they can be the difference in their communities, throughout their service and beyond.”

The project was part of the AmeriCorps annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service event. As part of the day, AmeriCorps members also toured the state capitol and met with state legislators to share their service experiences.

The Keepers of the Land AmeriCorps program has 52 members serving statewide extending the capacity of the DNR to address pressing environmental needs. Members serve as project and team leaders, volunteer recruiters and managers, and community liaisons. Most often described as a domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps is a federally funded program that enables Americans age 17 and over to commit a significant amount of time to voluntary service designed to meet community needs.

**For more information about the Keepers of the Land AmeriCorps Program, contact Tricia Boggs at [tricia.boggs@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:tricia.boggs@dnr.iowa.gov) or (515) 281-4539.**

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## **TAX TIME’S “OTHER DEPENDENTS”**

What do peregrine falcons, regal fritillary butterflies, spadefoot toads, and southern flying squirrels have in common? They are all Iowa wildlife species that benefit from contributions to the Fish and Wildlife Fund tax check-off (aka Chickadee Check-off) on line 58 of Iowa’s state tax forms.

Every cent of each donation is put to work for Iowa's wildlife and the contribution is tax-deductible. Please consider contributing to the Fish/Wildlife Fund – it is one of most hassle-free ways to make a difference for wildlife.

Research and habitat management for game species such as deer, turkeys, waterfowl and pheasants are funded through license fees, and habitat stamps. Iowa's non-game wildlife relies mainly on the generosity of Iowa's citizens through the check-off.

In 1981, the chickadee check-off was the first check-off added to the state tax form by the Iowa legislature; it has since been joined by 4 more. At its high point, over 16,000 people donated each year raising approximately \$200,000. The fund had been falling precipitously in the last several years, but the 2007 tax year showed a significant rebound, increasing to \$120,000 from an all time low of \$110,000 in 2006. This increase is likely in part a result of increased marketing efforts but also probably reflects the slightly higher amount of refunds returned to taxpayers in 2007. The top five counties that make up the highest percentage of the total money donated are Polk, Johnson, Linn, Story and Scott.

Funds from the Fish and Wildlife check-off go to a variety of activities undertaken by the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program. The Wildlife Diversity Program is in charge of the 80 percent of Iowa's wildlife that is not hunted, fished or trapped – that's more than 500 species.

The check-off funds are used to help host public events in local communities such as Bald Eagle Appreciation Days, Pelican Fest, and Hawk Watch. They are used to fund research on Iowa's most imperiled wildlife such as Red-shouldered Hawks and Ornate Box Turtles and to restore to Iowa long-gone species such as trumpeter swans, peregrine falcons and ospreys. The contributions are also used to develop and distribute several educational publications on Iowa's diverse wildlife and to guide the management of public and private lands for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

Investing in the future of Iowa's wildlife, is as easy as checking a box on your state tax form. The check-offs are on the line 58 labeled "Contributions" of the long state tax form and line 13 on the short form. For more information please contact the Wildlife Diversity Program by calling 515-432-2823.

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